

Fourth Annual Fashion with Compassion Charity Tea Party benefiting Healing House - huge success!

Mpls, MN December 1, 2009--- On Saturday morning, November 21st 230 compassionate women (and men) of the community flooded the Hotel Sofitel for the 4th Annual Charity event benefiting Healing House. While sipping tea and enjoying the harpist music of Jan Steinn, guests bid on silent auction items, purchased products and visited with residents and special guest Terry Hitchcock (75 marathons in 75 days runner & author), all before the luncheon/fashion show began. Julianna Olsen of Kare 11 & Lisa Barry of KTIS emceed the event sponsored by: May Family Foundation, Dan & Alice Anderson, Gary and Carolyn Scherer, LifeLong Wealth, Intentional Serenity, Seedlings Books & Gifts, Aurora Jewelers & Juut Salon & Spa.

“The women of Healing House made gifts of note cards, tea & scarves made good stocking stuffers for Christmas gifts” said Nancy Johnson, volunteer, who watched guests shop all morning. The tea party theme was evident throughout the event with a pyramid of 25 tea pots on the silent auction tables, tins of Grat-tea-tude tea made by residents in partnership with Intentional Serenity and the sales of over 120 cups of tea as entries into the drawing for a \$1000 necklace from Aurora Jewelers.

Early that morning the Healing House women & children arrived and were back stage getting ready by a team of volunteers. “Working with the gals on their hair & makeup, I had the privilege of hearing parts of their story. Laura, once an addict and felon, now in recovery through Healing House knows she has a plan and purpose in her life; this is the kind of volunteering I am meant for. I was so blessed to be a part of this event.” Mary Hartmann of Mary Hartmann Designs, Hair & Makeup Volunteer. Resident and friends of Healing House showcased the apparel of Corset Personal Styling and Kokoon. Mid-program, the children gathered to sing with Christian Contemporary Singer Mela Kamin proudly wearing their Intentional Serenity shirts with the event theme “Heart filled with Gratitude”. “Between the children singing and the testimony of Christy, it was a heart moving event” commented Sandi Shumate, guest. Christy, a single mother, sporting a Corset Personal Styling Outfit, walked out on stage and shared her heart with the audience of her past life, and then turned to her mother who was in the audience and said “Mom, I love you, you are a good mother, thanks for praying for me.” Christy is now enrolled in school and is excited about her future as she stands firm in her faith. There wasn’t a dry eye in the room.

“Our goal with this event was to raise awareness and support to make sure this safe and healing place will always be there for those who need it. It’s important for the community to know that we don’t turn families away due to their inability to pay. If the woman or family is ready and really wants the help, we invite them in the program, expressed Metro Hope Ministries Executive Director, Ron Klick. “Events like this help keep our doors open and with the help of sponsors and guests, this event raised \$34,000.” “Our Co-Chairs, Teena Dietz & Martii Gudim and their team of 60 volunteers operating in their gifts of time & talent were the backbone. This event was amazing on so many levels for the all who participated. God is good,” shared Mary Akehurst Metro Hope Event Coordinator.

“We are privileged to be a part of this life-changing ministry for single women and mothers with children. My business partner and Fashion Show Co-Chair Martii Gudim and I are committed to Healing House and look forward to once again working with the residents, staff and women of this community in creating an amazing event for 2010.” shared Co-Chair Teena Dietz and Intentional Serenity founder.

November marked Healing House’s fourth year in the community and still remains the only primary recovery program in a 300 mile radius that offers long-term residential Christian based recovery for women & children. While most of the residents come from Minnesota, women with backgrounds of chronic poverty, prostitution, prison/jail or addiction have travelled from Seattle, Kansas City and even down from Ontario. Healing House is a ministry of Metro Hope, recovery recourse to the community since 1926.

Find out all about it at www.fashionwithcompassionmn.org , or Healing House MN on Face Book. Need help? Call Healing House Intake, x122. Want to volunteer? Call Mary x103. Full info or future Healing House events go to www.metrohope.org/healinghouse or call, 612-721-9415.

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